

Sunshine Ordinance Task Force

ORDER OF DETERMINATION March 14, 2014

DATE THE DECISION ISSUED March 5, 2014

CASE TITLE - LARRY LITTLEJOHN V. MEDICIAL EXAMINER (13060)

FACTS OF THE CASE

Larry Littlejohn (Complainant) made a complaint alleging that the San Francisco Medical Examiner (Respondent) violated provision of the Sunshine Ordinance by failing to respond to an immediate disclosure request.

COMPLAINT FILED

On September 9, 2013, Mr. Littlejohn filed a complaint against Bill Ahern, Medical Examiner's Office, alleging violations of Sunshine Ordinance Section 67.25.

HEARING ON THE COMPLAINT

On March 5, 2014, Mr. Littlejohn appeared before the Task Force and presented his claim. Christopher Wirowek, Medical Examiner's Office (Respondent), stated that Bill Ahern is no longer an employee of the Medical Examiner's Office and presented the Medical Examiner's defense.

The issue in the case was whether the Medical Examiner violated Sections 67.21 and/or 67.25 of the Sunshine Ordinance.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the testimony and evidence presented the Task Force finds the testimony of Mr. Littlejohn to be persuasive and finds Sunshine Ordinance Section 67.21(b) to be applicable in this case. The Task Force does not find the testimony provided by Mr. Wirowek, Medical Examiner's Office, persuasive to this case.

DECISION AND ORDER OF DETERMINATION

The Task Force finds that Amy Hart, Chief Medical Examiner, violated Section 67.21 (b) of the Sunshine Ordinance by failing to provide access to public records in a timely manner. Mr. Wirowek, Medical Examiner's Office, has agreed to work with Mr. Littlejohn in getting the requested documents. The Medical Examiner shall appear before the Compliance and Amendments Committee at a meeting tentatively scheduled for April 15, 2014, to report on the status of the complaint.

This Determination was adopted by the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force on March 5, 2014, by the following vote: (Knee/David)

Ayes: Knee, Sims, David, Hyland, Fischer, Grant Absent: Washburn, Pilpel, Oka

Mix Grant

Kitt Grant, Chair Sunshine Ordinance Task Force

c: Nicolas Colla, Deputy City Attorney Jerry Threet, Deputy City Attorney Larry Littlejohn, Complainant Christopher Wirowek, Medical Examiner's Office, Respondent Amy Hart, Chief Medical Examiner, Respondent